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Jun 18th 2019

Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

We are strongly opposed to the USTelecom petition to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to dismantle key components of the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

Competition is the key to the function of open markets, and ensures that customers receive the best product or service at the lowest price. Giant telecommunication corporations like Verizon and AT&T have chosen to expand their business by mergers instead of investing in improvements to their core service. This strategy has reduced competition and increased their debt, which they now want to pay off by restricting broadband competition to increase prices.

We support Bridge 2 Broadband. It has made it possible for smaller companies like our internet provider, Sonic, to compete fairly, and deliver better service at lower prices than AT&T. Sonic is in the process of building a local fiber optic network that we have signed up for. As a residential Sonic customer, we will be materially affected if this petition is granted. We ask that the FCC reject this petition!

Tom and Kris Brown